

kilometres from town. It happened about 90 days ago at about 9.00 o'clock at night. Fearing ridicule, the two men have said nothing about it to anyone until now, but in view of the great number of flying saucer sightings in the Rio Preto district, they have got up the courage to tell their story.

"Three months ago, they went off fishing in the River Turvo. At about 9.00 o'clock at night, Sr. Secco looked behind him and saw a brilliant, intense light. He shouted to his friend: 'Arlindo, Arlindo, look at that star. It's almost as big as the moon.'

"Without looking round, the councillor replied, 'Ah, it must be Venus. Are you going to do some fishing, or stand there gaping at the stars?'

"But the electrician insisted, 'Arlindo, the star—if it is a star—is getting bigger, and it's coming down lower.' Councillor Massi looked round and saw the luminous object, still at a great height, but which looked like a torch of an orange colour.

"Some 40 metres from the ground, the strange light stopped and stayed there spinning on its axis, and apparently throwing off sparks. As the 'ball of fire' came closer to the ground, a strong wind started up; so strong that it broke the branches off several trees.

"The 'luminous object' stayed there for some four or five minutes, then described a curve in the sky and made off at 'frightening speed', to a place some 5 kilometres away, possibly just above the trees on the banks of the river. 'The strange object', affirmed Messrs. Massi and Secco, 'kept on spinning and throwing off sparks, and it seemed to be pulsating. The strong wind continued. While it was over our heads it was the size of a medium-sized room [probably about 5 metres diameter—N.R.]. Seen from a distance, it had the form of a cheese. The object stayed over the trees for 5 minutes and then went off towards Rio Grande at high speed and disappeared.'

"Sr. Arlindo Massi has a motor-scooter, and on this he tried to flee the place. But in his haste to get away, he burnt the clutch out. At this, the two of them were practically paralysed.

"After the light had vanished, the wind dropped and the two fishermen set out to push the motor-scooter to fazenda Tito Barbeiro, some 2 kilometres away. They left the machine there and then got a lift into Rio Preto, 25 kilometres from the fazenda.

"The administrator of the fazenda, after hearing the story, said that the object always appeared in that place. At first the employees used to be frightened, but now it is no longer a novelty. To them it is the 'Mãe de Ouro' (Mother of Gold), who comes down there.

"The administrator went on to say that the men believe that anyone who can hit the 'Mãe de Ouro' with a shot will suddenly receive a tremendous quantity of gold. However, in exchange for the gold, he will lose his life, so that only others will benefit. The ball of fire is actually a ball of gold which, when it comes down, scatters itself among the stones. [This tale is common all over Brazil and some day I hope to investigate the Mother of Gold more fully—N.R.]

"Both Sr. Massi and his friend Sr. Secco are well-known figures in Rio Preto. Even so, the few friends they did tell of their encounter thought they were joking."

Credit to **Nigel Rimes**, to whom we are also grateful for the translation and the added notes.

Rain of bricks

Again in the newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo* (issue of November 11, 1968) we read how—

"Stones and pieces of bricks from no one knows where are falling at the residence of Francisco Silveira in 9 de Julho Avenue, Lençóis Paulista. The phenomenon started at 18.00 hours the day before yesterday when the stuff began to pour down. Soon afterwards it was falling inside the house as well and inside closed rooms too.

"Alarmed, Francisco's wife fainted and in his solicitude in trying to bring her round, Francisco managed to alert the whole neighbourhood. Very soon the whole town heard about what was going on, and very soon a multitude had gathered in front of the house. Many people entered the house where they noted that the stones were falling vertically but only became visible as they struck the ground.

"Even though the stones fell with considerable force, nobody was hurt, not even a child of only a few days, sleeping in its cot in one of the rooms affected.

"Throughout the whole of the night, the stones and fragments of bricks continued to fall, sometimes with terrific intensity. They poured on to the tiled roof and into the rooms below, making a tremendous noise. And yet not a single tile was broken.

"Dozens of people of undoubted veracity have testified to having seen the stones falling. Among them were a number of soldiers, sent by the local police station to investigate the matter." Credit to **Nigel Rimes**—and thanks for his translation of this and several other items.

Mini-Disc frightens children

O Estado de São Paulo of December 5, 1968, reported how—

"A 'flying saucer' 30 cms. in diameter entered a house by way of the

window and gave a terrific fright to brother and sister, Eugenia and Jesus Paez, who were asleep at the time and awoke when they heard the noise made by the object. The children said that the disc shone with light and gave them electric shocks when they touched it while they tried to catch it."

Credit: **Nigel Rimes**.

Regular visitor

From the *Diario da Noite* of December 5, 1968, we see that near Fortaleza (Meridional)—

"The strange object that has been flying about over Iracema beach has turned up again, only this time it stayed for rather longer, making an impression on everyone who saw it for nearly four minutes and then heading off for an unknown destination. It always turns up at the same time flying on the same course, and so people resident in the area are able to go out at 6.00 p.m., armed with binoculars, to observe the object whose appearances are now considered to be routine."

Credit: **Nigel Rimes**.

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en Iberoamerica y Espana

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EDITORIAL POMAIRE S.A., AV. INFANTA CARLOTA 157, BARCELONA (also SANTIAGO de CHILE, BUENOS AIRES, MEXICO).

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